

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Finances of the Communist Party of Uruguay (CPU)

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1. A meeting of finance secretaries of the various cells of the Communist Party of Uruguay (CPU) was held 28 April 1949 at CPU headquarters in Montevideo to consider the problem of the CPU's finances. Approximately 100 persons were present. Eugenio Gomez, Secretary General of the CPU, made the only speech of the meeting.
2. The first half of Gomez' speech reviewed the Communist Party line with regard to the international situation and lasted approximately forty minutes. He called for a struggle in all spheres to support this line and cited the Party's success among packinghouse workers as an example of one of the CPU's significant triumphs.\* He added that this demonstrated the fine prospects of the Party's future success.
3. After this build-up, the second half of Gomez' talk dealt with the finances of the CPU. He declared that a financial apparatus based upon 200 committees must be created which would be capable of supporting the CPU through the most difficult periods and of building a great Party in the future. The Central Committee of the CPU alone has a debt of 150,000 pesos, which does not include the debts of the Departmental Committee, sections and cells. It will be necessary to raise 50,000 pesos before the next National Congress of the CPU.
4. Gomez reviewed the expenditures of the CPU for the past three months to illustrate how much the Party must spend. The Central Committee of the CPU alone spent 36,000 pesos, 8,000 of which consisted of payment on debts. In addition, the Central Committee spent 10,000 pesos of the funds collected at the end of the year (colecta de aguinaldo). To send delegates to Europe, 15,000 pesos were spent. The rent on the 50 locales of the CPU brought the total budget of the CPU to 100,000 pesos for three months.
5. In addition to raising funds for running expenses, Gomez stated that there is a problem of unpaid salaries which must be solved quickly. The Central Committee has 33 officials who receive salaries of between 120 and 150 pesos per month. National deputies and Central Committee members earn 130 pesos each per month. There are 4,000 pesos in back salaries still due for the months of March and April, 1,500 for February and 3,000 for the year 1948. The Departmental Committee owes 5,000 pesos for unpaid salaries, which brings

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the total Party debt for salaries in arrears to 13,500 pesos. In addition, the CPU owes 3,100 pesos on debts to banks. If these bank debts are not paid by 10 May 1949, the banks will hold the guarantors liable for payment.

6. Rent for three months is due on the CPU headquarters. If the back rent is not paid soon, the Party will be evicted.
7. Commercial debts of the Central Committee amount to 4,000 pesos. The Departmental Committee owes an additional 6,000 pesos.
8. Because of the above debts, the CPU must collect 10,000 pesos by 10 May 1949. Of this amount, 30 per cent will go to the Central Committee, 20 per cent to the Departmental Committee, and the remainder to the sections and cells. The 15 groups of friends (grupos de amigos) of the CPU must raise an additional 9,000 pesos.
9. Gomez stated that through the groups of friends, the CPU had been successful in obtaining some large donations, including 3,000 pesos from business establishments, 3,000 pesos from the Jewish community, and 1,000 pesos in personal donations.
10. Gomez ended his speech by exhorting all to sacrifice for the Party. He stated that concern over Party finances would not put an end to the other work of the Party. Rather, the reverse would be true as the campaign to collect funds would offer an opportunity for Party affiliates to contact the masses and thus aid the Party's organizational efforts. The appearance of a Communist newspaper "to herald political success" would depend on the result of the financial drive of the CPU.

Comment. The CPU does not have control of any important union in Uruguay, and the Communist situation in the packinghouses has remained unchanged.

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